MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN

DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE, THE FARM, THE GARDEN, THE FIRESIDE, RURAL LIFE, LITERATURE, USEFUL ARTS, NEWS, &c.

AND NEW ENGLAND AGRICULTURE.

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Agricultural.

FEBRUARY ON THE FARM.

Winter is slowly wearing away, the days are gradually growing longer, and it is about time to be preparing for the season's campaign. Many a farm tool was left last fall in no proper condition to begin spring's work with. Some wagon, or plough, or drag may need putting in order, and if it is not done now while you have time, you will have to stop work on something else, and take hold and patch it up. It is a great deal better to look after the tools now, and have them ready to do what you will require of them.

Did you neglect to prune the grape vines, currants and gooseberries last November? Then they ought to be attended to now, on the mild days of this month. Soon March will be here, and the warm days will start the flow of sap, when pruning may do more harm than good. You may cut grafts this month, and pack them, carefully labelled, in moss or sand, for spring use. It is much better to cut them at this season than to wait till you want them to set. Apple orchards may be pruned, also, the old dead limbs cut away, and the tree brought into a comely shape. The old orchards on many a farm would furnish a supply of firewood through a good part of the summer, and be improved by the process a hundred per cent.

Manure may be hauled out now and either spread upon the surface of land that it is intended to manure and plough as soon as ready in spring, or piled up in the compost heap in a convenient place. If the land is tolerably level and there is little danger of washing, we think it better economy to the soil directly. It seems to work into and the advancing spring is exceedingly favorable to this. Of two pieces to receive an equal amount of the same manure to be ploughed in as soon as the ground is in condition, in April or May, that where the manure is hauled out and spread upon the surface in winter, will send its crops ahead faster and earlier than that where the manure is hauled out and spread just before the ploughing. And then only see the saving. Calculate the difference in the value of time now and then. Reckon the ease of teaming now, over a frozen surface, no cutting in, no straining of the teams, no injury to the grass land which it may be necessary to cross, no hurry for fear of getting belated with the spring's work. If there is a thin coating of snow on the ground that need not deter you. You can haul on sleds and so save a deal of heavy pitching into high sided carts, but when you get upon the field don't dump in heaps to be left there. Either spread and have done with it, or put up in great compost heaps, to be forked over once or twice at great labor, and pitched into carts again and teamed about. It really doesn't seem to pay, particularly as the result will be no better, but some people think it is fun to see a tremendous pile of manure, and can't seem to think that it makes so much show when lying quietly on the surface, giving down its soluble constituents, its life blood, into the hungry earth. If any one doubts that a good deal of the labor which is often bestowed may just as well be saved, let him try the experiment, and try it carefully, and he'll find the economy of trusting a little to the grasping, absorbing power of the soil, to hold and swallow up the ingredients that he may think would be lost.

But you may say, "Haven't you been telling us, to avoid the wash of the drenching rains, to keep our manure under cover, compost and take care of it?" Certainly, but the wash in the barnyard, with a rich black cream running away with your manure and your money, and leaving it just where you can't use to be a remarkable milker, must have room to produce and to hold an extraordinary quantity of milk. Other things being equal, a heifer coming in on the flush of grass will always be worth a great deal more than one coming in at this season, unless extraordinary care is bestowed upon her.

because it is more available to the roots of plants, and by applying it now to the surface, you secure this mixture. Not that the organic, visible part of the coarse manure goes down out of sight, to any great extent, but the more important part, that which is easily dissolved and ready to act as the food of plants, becomes in this way, disseminated through the soil, while the coarser part still remains to be turned under to act mechanically in improving or modifying its texture. Is not this the true and philosophical way of applying manure, and of far more practical importance than to secure the fermentation, which is the object of building up a big pile, at great labor, to lie till it is ready to be hauled around and spread at the time of ploughing?

Careful attention to stock is all important now. Card them often. The more you handle milch cows, particularly young ones, the better they like you, provided you are gentle and kind, never boisterous or abusive. Regular feeding, is of course, essential. If young heifers are expected to come in before grass, the utmost pains should be taken to force a large flow of milk by feeding slops, warm mixtures of various kinds, and careful protection against exposure to cold. No heifer should be allowed to come in with her first calf till it is time to turn to grass, if it can be avoided. It makes a vast difference in her permanent value as a milker. The glands and secretory organs must be distended to their utmost capacity, consistent with prudence, in order to fix the habit of a great flow subsequently. By this course, the organs, now influenced more easily than at any time after, because still growing, acquire greater capacity and enlargement. A cow to be a remarkable milker, must have room to produce and to hold an extraordinary quantity of milk. Other things being equal, a heifer coming in on the flush of grass will always be worth a great deal more than one coming in at this season, unless extraordinary care is bestowed upon her.

Questions & Answers.

LEG WEAKNESS.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

Is there a work on Milch Cows by M. Francis Guenon, and if so where may it be had?

My hens are troubled with a disease in the legs; they have no use of their legs, they dump around, and I do not know the cause, and also the remedy, they will greatly oblige

A SUBSCRIBER.

Chelmsford, Jan. 9, 1868.

Guenon's little treatise can be had at most of the agricultural bookstores. Probably Williams has it, at 100 Washington Street. You will find Guenon's system explained and simplified so as to be of far greater practical value than in the original work in Flint's *Milch Cows and Dairy Farming*, where many pages are devoted to a full development and explanation of it.

Leg weakness in domestic fowls is generally caused by the size and weight of the body being greater than the legs can bear; it is shown by the bird resting on the first joint. Being entirely the result of weakness, the best treatment is one which gives general strength and stamina.

It is evident that over feeding has often caused the disease, that is feeding too fattening rather than muscle forming food. The want of access to lime in some form has sometimes brought on leg weakness. If you can get a little citrate of iron and dissolve it in ale and mix the food, say oat meal and fish waste or whatever else you may give with it, you will probably put the birds on their legs again.—[ED.

THE FARMER'S LOT.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

The more we look at the condition of farmers, the worse it appears. I cannot see that much light has been thrown on the subject of how to make farming profitable, by Mr. Duren. To be sure he has added to what was left him, but like most others that have acquired a competency, he had a good lift in the world to start with.

Is Mr. Duren as well off as he would have been, if he had disposed of his farm when it first came into his hands and put the money at interest, and worked at his trade of making boots?

When a politician wishes to get their votes, he tells the farmers how noble their profession is; that they are the very foundation of the nation's prosperity; that trade, manufactures and commerce, depend upon their success in tilling the soil. But after he has got his office, does he labor for their interests? does he see to it that their wool is protected? that they do not bear more than their share of the taxes? that they can go into the market and borrow money as readily as the speculator or tradesman? or are they so *very well off* that there is no need of attending to their wants?

Money does not seek investment in farms, and will not just so long as there is a premium in the form of exemption from taxation, and a high rate of interest—more than what a farmer can pay and live.

Last fall a sportsman shot an owl that measured four feet across the wings; his hoot was different from any owl I ever heard. I did not see him. He was around here about two years before he was killed.

Here is something that is of value to farmers: whenever an owl is noisy, look out for dull weather within two days after it. I have not known the sign to fail since I first became aware of it, some two years ago.

LUCIEN.

Salisbury, Jan. 2, 1868.

—The *Aiken Press*, Ga., gives an account of the plant, Japan Clover, which has found its way mysteriously into the middle regions of Georgia and South Carolina. It is ascertained to be a native of China and Japan, but by what means it was conveyed to the region in question is yet unexplained. The *Press* is of the opinion that this clover will prove of vast importance to the planters of the South, in the renovation of the soil so much exhausted by continuous cotton cropping. The plant is perennial, and supplies excellent pasturage for stock, and a rich mass for turning under as cultivated ground.

Correspondence.

FARMING A HARD BUSINESS.

BY HON. J. W. COLBURN.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

I have recently noticed some articles in the *Ploughman*, with regard to the profits of farming, neither of which I believe to be quite correct. Mr. Clark, of Weston, contends that there is no trade or profession where a man has to do so much labor for a dollar as the farmer. If he means actual muscular labor, like hoeing corn or digging potatoes, he may be right, but it is not necessary to stop here; there are others and vastly more important considerations pertaining to the business of practical farming than mere physical labor. There is thought, skill, judgment, and room for the exercise of a vast amount of brain work in the successful operations of the thorough going farmer. His success in his business depends vastly more on his judgment, skill and thoroughness in management than upon his bone and muscle. We know that a man wanting in all the essential elements of character that go to make a good business man, will fail as a farmer, and so he will in any other business; but where nature has fitted an individual to be a *whole* man in a practical view, with a reasonable educational training, he will be as likely to succeed in farming as well as in any other pursuit; and in fact more so, for there are but few other pursuits of life that are so sure and safe from hazards.

This is one of the great inducements that should influence a young man to stick to the farm. A slow sure profit is preferable to a large prospective one attended with uncontrollable risks. The farmer does not often make a great capitalist, but farming gives an independent competence, health, and as much satisfaction and happiness as is found in any other pursuit of life. Not one in seven of capitalists [illegible] will fail in their business, and then only by some unavoidable and unforeseen exigencies, while six out of every seven of the mercantile community fail and become bankrupts. A failure among farmers is the exception, but in mercantile life it is the rule. In the mechanical trades but few make fortunes, and in professional life a less number succeed to eminence or wealth. When opportunities present they can make their dollar easier and in less time than the farmer can [illegible] by the increasing growing of his trees, the enlarging of his forests, the maturing of his fruits, the growing of his crops, and of the various kinds of farm stock. While he sleeps his income does not stop; if he locates aright in starting, the advance on his lands is telling in his favor, and in some localities will amount to a fortune in less than a brief life time.

Mr. Clark says, "the good farmer cannot be a merchant, neither can the merchant be a good farmer." I do not agree with him; a man may have been trained from his youth up upon the farm, another to merchandising, and of course both better fitted to the business of their training than to any other, but a man of energy, application and aptitude to business of any kind to which he turns his hand, will do well whatever he undertakes to do. Stephen Girard or John Jacob Astor, had they adopted farming for a living in early life, would have been model farmers and successful in the business. A man may have a taste for some branch of business over any other, but failing to get established in his favorite branch, and taking the next that comes in his way, if he is right as a thorough going persistent man, he will do with his might whatever his hands find to do, and will scarcely fail in anything. The success of a man depends more upon himself, upon what he is and what he is determined to be, than upon any and all other circumstances as a general rule.

Mr. Clark does not give a flattering account of the farmers in his neighborhood, who are at the bottom and scarcely touch anything else but the bottom. If Mr. Clark will come up into this Connecticut river valley, into this goodly heritage of Vermont, we will show him a different picture. We will point him to farmers and to estates of deceased farmers, which foot up all the way from six to thirty thousand dollars, the accumulations of farming only with the aid of the interest on the funds drawn from the soil. These are not isolated cases, nor are they the general rule, but they can be counted by scores. Then if he will go with us over to the Lake Shore counties on the western border of our State, we will introduce him to farmers, the breeders and owners of the American improved merinos, what some have termed fancy bred and others thoroughbred sheep, who can count their dollars from thirty to one hundred and fifty thousand. These are facts, not fiction; our wealthy farmers "touched bottom" long ago. When they commenced life for themselves they steadily progressed until there is no other class among us that stand higher in enterprise, in intelligence, or socially and financially. Mr. Clark may deem this as tall bragging for little Vermont. Though Vermont is diminutive in territory and small in manufacturing, she is great in agriculture and can probably beat every other State in the Union in the cash value of her agricultural products per capita of those engaged in producing from the soil. We send more cattle and sheep to the Cambridge and Brighton markets annually than all the other New England States put together. I have said thus much of Vermont farming, and do not disparage the occupation elsewhere, but whenever I see it spoken of anywhere as a low, mean, unprofitable pursuit, unworthy of the attention of the intelligent and the good, it starts my ire and I feel like vindicating it against such unjust aspersions, as the most honorable and noble calling that man can follow, and reasonably lucrative if conducted with skill, being the base and foundation of all other industries.

Springfield, Vt., Jan. 11, 1868.

—Near Wolf Lake, Mich., a man asked a boy to be allowed to ride on a load of hay As the load was very heavy, the boy refused. In revenge the scoundrel set fire to the hay. Two wheels were all that was saved of the wagon.

UNITED STATES WOOLS.

THERE IS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

It makes but little odds how large the crops or products raised for sale are, unless they are adapted to the market. We have too much of medium clothing wools, more than there is a demand for. Had our farmers on hand ten million pounds of Silesian, Saxony, Cotswold, or Leicester wools, they could all be sold at a profit.

It is as essential for our farmers to study the markets, and to know what products are in the greatest demand—what bring the best prices—as to know the capacities of their soil, the crops best adapted to it, and the best and most profitable methods of raising them.

This lesson our wool growers have yet to learn, or they may expect much of their wool to remain on their hands, or sell it for very low prices, on account of the competition arising from a superabundance of one kind.

Unless this lesson is immediately learned, they must not so much blame manufacturers for seeking kinds of wool abroad, which they are so much troubled in obtaining from our own farmers.

Mr. H. D. Tellkampf, of New York, one of the largest wool dealers in the country, says that we have injured our wool by mixing in so much of the blood of the greasy Vermont Merino. This wool does not felt well, and is not liked by manufacturers, though for combing it answers pretty well for Coburgs. He recommends an immediate resort to Silesian rams, (a hardy, very fine wooled sheep, much larger than the Saxony, and hardier) and he even goes so far as to advise manufacturers to import rams of this breed, and distribute them at cost; also, to establish a sheep farm and stock it with these sheep. This would be money spent better than for lobbying.

This advice coming in a deliberate report made to the National Association of Woolen Manufacturers, should be heeded by our farmers, if they would grow salable and profitable wool.

The corrugated, or ruffled skins of the greasy Vermont Merino, cannot be sorted so as to be fit for a fine fabric. The wool varies in every fold all over the body. An expert wool stapler told us that it was impossible to sort it nicely, and that fifty fleeces of smooth skinned sheep could be [illegible] Farmers, if you would sell your wool, repudiate these black greasy rams. Adopt the Silesian, the Cotswold, and you will find your wool will sell as fast as you can get it to market, at a profit.

There are some of the finest combing wool sheep of the whole world in France, to which she is entirely indebted for the unrivalled beauty and excellence of her finest woolen fabrics. It is a matter of surprise, that with all our enterprise, none of these most famous breeds of sheep have as yet been imported into this country. By the way, cross the Silesian with the smooth, fine wool Merino, not greasy.

The Mauchamp sheep is the most famous in France. The wool is as much superior to Cotswold as Cotswold is to Donskoi, or Cordova. Satins of China and shawls made of this fleece, equal those made of the finest Cashmere or Angora fleece.

Sheep should be well and evenly fed; no sudden changes in food from good to bad, nor be exposed to storms or sudden changes of temperature, or else the fibre of the fleece will be uneven and unhealthy.

H. C. M.

ONE EYED BRAHMA.

STRANGE DECISION.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

I see by the *American Agriculturist*, that at the late show of the American Poultry Society at New York, the first prize Brahma cock had but one eye.

The object of this society is professedly the improvement of poultry in this country. A most worthy object, truly. The poultry interest is a great one, and those who seek to influence it by forming a society with the name of American, and earnestly engaging in the duties properly pertaining to such a position, are entitled to credit. If they err, the confidence of the public will not so soon be gained, and without this confidence they cannot accomplish much good. That they have erred in making the award mentioned above, must, I think, be acknowledged.

Animals, manufactured articles, etc., are usually exhibited in their best estate. Beauty, grace, style, finish, are what we expect at all our exhibitions, from the "universelle," to the humblest neighborhood show, and more, our natures demand this; anything offensive in these respects is doubly so at such times. Suppose a carriage maker intends exhibiting at a fair a fine new buggy, at the last moment a wheel is accidentally ruined; there is another in the shop just like it in all respects, but unpainted. He can show his buggy perfect in all but one wheel. Where is the man who would do it? and why? Because in the matter of carriages, the public taste is so educated, that such a violence to itself would not be tolerated.

Imagine old Green Mountain Morgan coming on the grounds at an agricultural fair, with his tail shaved. Why not? It might detract from his appearance somewhat, but would not his usefulness remain?

The loss of an eye is a greater defect than these, it excites pity, and a fowl in this condition is a cause of pain to the sensitive, and of course not a good subject of study for those not well informed in poultry matters. If such a defect can pass, they may say, cannot others also, which may not be so plain to us? The Brahma is not so satisfying to the eye as the White Dorking, the Hamburgs, etc., but it should not be robbed of what beauty it may possess, be it ever so little. In making such an award there may be wisdom, but it seems to me that its effect must be bad, even for the present, and certainly if the practice be continued and obtain at our smaller shows. Therefore I protest against it.

SOUTH MIDDLESEX.

January 9th, 1868.

—A late writer says nearly one million cattle are fed in Switzerland.

Farmers' Omnibus.

—Apples keep best when cool and dry. Sudden changes of temperature induce the collection of moisture in the skin, which dissolves the delicate varnish with which the skin of the apple is covered, and it soon decays.

—The mass of agriculturists are only beginning to understand the value and importance of guano, France having imported but 25,000 tons in the past year against 150,000 tons absorbed by England in the same time.

—The committee on soured fleeces appointed by the Illinois State Agricultural Society, think no new facts can be established or good accomplished by further trials—wool growing tests—and, recommend the discontinuance of premiums on soured wool.

—Arator, in the *Country Gentleman*, says, "He who would receive heavy crops of forage, must first of all put his manure in deeply, and thus make his land deep and rich. Afterwards, by far the most economical mode of application will be by top-dressing."

—Mr. Wm. Hayhurst, of Kane township, Vinton County, Iowa, harvested a little over 400 bushels of oats from a few rods over five acres of ground, being an average of eighty bushels to the acre. Whoever has a heavier crop will please report.

—During the six months of 1867, ending June 30th, California exported in flour 317,924 barrels, valued at $1,958,619, being an increase of 161,088 barrels, and of $962,479 in value over the same period last year.

—The Augusta (Ga.) *Chronicle* says cotton is no longer a remunerative crop, and insists that the cotton planters of Georgia should set about at once the preparation of at least one-fourth of their best land for wheat.

—R. J. Swan, son in law of the well known farmer, John Johnston, has a fine farm in Seneca Co., N. Y., on which he [illegible] rotation is corn on clover sod, manured the previous Autumn; barley, wheat, meadow and pasture.

—In Florida and Louisiana this year the Orange crop is a heavy one. A Louisiana paper says: "We shall soon see thousands of golden fruit mingled with millions of green leaves, on the grandest and most beautiful of all the fruit bearing trees in the South.

[illegible] more pitch it contains the better—as this is very offensive to poultry vermin. Some think it pays well to make the roosting cribs of pine boughs as a protection from their greatest enemy—lice.

—Weeding potatoes with sheep is recommended. They eat down the weeds, and will not touch the potato vines. Where there is unavoidable delay in hoeing, this practice is a good one, as it prevents weeds seeding as well as choking the growth of plants. It is practised considerably in potato growing sections.

—A Correspondent of the *Rural American* recommends the following as a cure for lice on cattle: Take 12 or more good sized Irish potatoes, pound them fine, then put them into two gallons and a half of water, boil thoroughly, then let it cool, and apply as a wash, to cows, calves, mares and colts, and all other creatures that have lice.

—The National Wool Manufacturers' Association have passed resolutions stating that both wool growers and manufacturers would be benefitted by increasing the variety of products of wool. They recommend an increase of the fine wools corresponding to the best Silesian wools, and of the combing wools from the English breeds of sheep.

—The *Scientific American* says that a good way to clean cider barrels is to put lime, water and a common trace chain into the barrel through the bung hole, first tying a strong twine to the chain to draw it out with. Shake the barrel about until the chain wears off the mould or pomace, then rinse with cold water.

—It is stated that the crop of last year in Colorado, as estimated by careful persons was of wheat, 500,000 bushels; barley and oats, 530,000 bushels; corn, 600,000 bushels—an increase of threefold over the preceding year. This year, in consequence of the ravages of grasshoppers, the crops have been cut down in the aggregate about one-half in quantity.

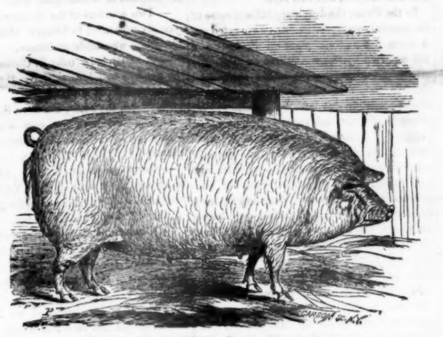
—The *Maryland Farmer* closes an article on the subject of a proper application of manure, by saying: "On heavy clay lands manure liberally and plough it under; on light soils top dress in more limited quantities, but more frequently than on the heavier ones." This is brief, sensible, and probably as correct a practice as the various modifications of soil will permit.

—A correspondent of the American Institute Farmers' Club attributes fire blight to the growth of the roots of the tree downwards until they come in contact with some water course, or a cold, wet soil. As a remedy he suggests grafting he pear on to the mountain ash, the natural habit of which is to extend its roots in a horizontal direction. He has some four hundred trees on this stock which are healthy.

APPLICATION OF MANURES.

There has been a great dispute at the south whether farm yard dung should be applied for wheat directly it is the autumn, or whether it should be applied upon grasses. Many advocate the putting of it on the clover at mid-summer; and in almost all cases where it has been so tried it has produced a good effect. Instead of applying it for wheat, in ordinary cases, when the wheat is about to be sown, or on the clover in mid summer, I apply it in autumn or spring before, upon the clover. The result of pursuing that course is this: You give the clovers a thoroughly good dressing, so as to enable them to grow with much greater rapidity, and to a much greater volume; you also have a far greater amount of roots produced in the soil; and the wheat derives a greater benefit from those roots, in the shape of manure, than if you applied the manure at mid-summer, or when you plough up the land in the autumn. Wherever this plan has been tried—and it has been tried in many places—it has been found efficacious. Experiments have been made, distinctly showing that it is better to apply farm yard dung to green than to corn crops.—*Prof Norbit. Farmer.*

PURE CHESTER CO. SOW.



Bred by H. G. White, South Framingham.

Stock Department.

EXPERIMENTS IN FEEDING CATTLE.

In England everything connected with agriculture is experimented in, without regard to expense, in every possible way. In no country has the cultivation of the soil been carried to a higher state of perfection, or in which it is more productive, and as an occupation, more lucrative. We always read with pleasure the results of farming, and especially the many experiments which are tried there with a view to discover the most successful and profitable way of conducting the various operations on the farm.

The following experiment in feeding cattle with cooked and with fermented food, was lately tried upon one of the largest estates. It will be seen that this experiment suggests the importance of great care and caution in feeding, before a decided opinion is adopted in so nice and delicate a subject as the nutrition of animals, the health and constitution of which is so valuable.

Four heifers were selected, as equal in all respects as possible; and six pigs were also selected, from the same family; each lot was divided by the selection, alternately, of an animal. All were weighed, at the end, and of each week, during the experiment, each animal was weighed.

In the first week of the experiment the fermented food consumed was much less than the other, and the increase of the pigs in live weight was considerably more; and the heifers also seemed to have made rapid advances. The second week, however, changed the scene entirely. Those on cooked food were making steady progress, while week. It was then observed that the bowels of the lot using fermented food had been confined, and had become free in the second. The apparent success on the first week was the result of indigestion and accumulations of undigested matter in the intestines. The experiment continued for twelve weeks—those on cooked food thriving and increasing, the other not. On slaughtering them, it was found that the intestines of the three fed on fermented food were full of worms—thus accounting for their not advancing. There was a difference in the return of the lots of pigs in favor of those fed on cooked food of £1 7s. 3d.

Knowing as we do that there is a considerable difference of opinion among farmers upon this question, the above is submitted to their attention, in the hope that they will give us their own views upon the subject, which is one, they will admit, worthy of consideration.—*Germantown Telegraph.*

JERSEY CATTLE—A LARGE PRICE.

Mr. Wm. Crozier, Pawtuxet, R. I., writes us that he has purchased for the "Choppequonsett Farm," of which he is the manager, the Jersey bull "Comet Jr.," of W. H. Hopkins, Esq., Providence, for *one thousand dollars*. This is the highest price we remember for a single animal of the breed. The bull is two years old, and received the first prize in class, and the sweepstakes as the best bull of his breed of any age, at the recent New England Show, the committee stating in their report that they consider him "the most perfect bull of the breed they have ever seen." Mr. Crozier was awarded the first prize on cows for "Caroline." He states that from the 7th to the 14th of May last, she made 18 1-4 pounds of butter. She was milked at the New England Fair, and her milk set, making 3 1-2 inches of pure cream to 8 inches of milk, and he then refused $1500 for her!

Mr. Crozier has just purchased of Fred. Wm. Stone, Guelph, C. W., a Cotswold ram which reached him too late for entry at the fair, though taken on the grounds for a few hours, and attracting great attention. He is two years old and weighs 364 pounds. —*Country Gentleman.*

CHANNEL ISLAND CATTLE.

A herd of Channel Island (Jersey and Alderney) cattle, nearly 100 in number, belonging to Phillip Dauncey, Esq., near Winslow, England, and considered the finest in Great Britain, was sold at public sale, Oct. 24th. The fame of the herd brought a large assemblage of purchasers, and the prices realized were consequently high. The lowest priced cow brought 15 1-2 guineas, and the highest priced 100 guineas. The latter was purchased by Mr. Garne, and among the other purchasers were Lord Chesham, Sir H. Verney, Duke of Grafton, Duke of Bedford, Colonel Spicer, Mr. W. A. Gilbey, &c. The average of the cows, fifty-six in number, was £30 4s. Seven heifers in calf brought from 35 to 62 guineas, the average being £55 10s. Five heifers, out with young bull, brought prices ranging from 28 to 56 guineas, or an average of £44 2s. The calves were sold in pairs, and brought from 25 to 51 guineas per pair, and the bulls, five in number, brought from 20 to 60 guineas each. The total proceeds of the sale amounted to £3,912.

HOW TO TREAT BALKY HORSES.

If you have balky horses, it is your own fault, and not the horses', for if they do not pull true, there is some cause for it, and if you will remove the cause, the effect will cease. When your horse balks he is excited, and does not know what you want him to do. When he gets a little excited, stop him five or ten minutes; let him become calm; go to the balky horse, pat him, and speak gently to him; and as soon as he is over his excitement, he will, in nine cases out of ten pull at the word. Whipping and slashing and swearing only make the matter worse. After you have gentled him awhile, and his excitement has cooled down, take him by the reins; turn him each way, a few minutes, as far as you can; pull out the tongue, gentle him a little; unrein him; then step before the balky horse, and let the other start first; then you can take them anywhere you wish. A balky horse is always high spirited and starts quick; half the pull is out before the other starts; by standing before him the other starts first. By close application to this rule, you can make any balky horse pull. If a horse has been badly spoiled, you should hitch him to the empty wagon, and pull it around a while on level ground; then put on a little load, and increase it gradually, caressing as before, and in a short time you can have a good work horse.—*American Farmer.*

Miscellaneous.

CRANBERRY CULTURE.

The cranberry vine should always be planted in the spring. During the blooming period the vine is very sensitive, too much enfeebled by flowering to throw out new rootlets and take strong hold in the soil. After this period the plant assumes a second and luxurious growth, but the season (from August till October) is too short for it to fasten itself well to the ground. From April till July is the most auspicious season for transplanting.

The habit of the vine seems to be in this manner: there are two kinds of stems coming up from the roots, the runner and the bearer. The runner has its leaves all pointing upward, towards the zenith, leaving the under side of the stem free to fall on and root into the ground. The bearer shoot grows perpendicularly, its leaves standing out horizontally. As any eye in any stem of the cranberry plant may be made to root, all those eyes, on the runner touching the ground, become root centres.

The cranberry vine thus forms new root centres in all directions around the parent stem, wherever the runners touch the ground. Thus also these centres spreading, mat in the ground, for an inch or so in depth, for the vine is not deep rooted; so that a cranberry meadow may be skinned as it were, rolled up root and branch, like rolling up a carpet from a floor. Several years are necessary for this amount of growth, however.

From this it may be seen that a year's growth of root is none too much for the vine, to enable its roots to withstand the waves, winds, and worst of all, the heaving of the frosts.

From the nature of the root, the necessity of a perfectly clean, unobstructed soil, is apparent; also, that ploughing, hoeing, &c., can only be advantageously used for the first period of the earliest growth of the vine; also, that the plant obtains its water not in, but over the water—hence the need of levelling to a uniform height above the water level.

The first two years of the vine ought to be passed in first rooting—then running.

The first parent root centre, begins from say eight or ten stems, set four or five inches into the sand, leaving three or four inches out of ground; the extra depth below the couple of inches for the rooting eyes, is to give the plant a solid hold in the soil, while the rootlets get strong enough to hold their own. The leaf above ground is the plant's living. This may be called the first year's work.

The second year, runners will spring out abundantly. After they get under way, no ploughs or hoes can be advantageously used in the meadow; hand weeding now is our only resource. The best weeders are children, properly superintended. Go into the roots, disturbing the runners as little as possible.

During these two years, the vine gets a better growth, and is stronger if it bears no fruit at all. The natural process of arriving at the fruiting period with the vine, seems to be thus:

While any eye may become a root, so it seems, any eye may send forth a bearing shoot.

The course of the vine seems to be: first year to take root; second year, to send out runners which again root; third, bearing shoots spring up from the runners; fourth year, from the tops of these shoots a growth of an inch or two is made. From the eyes around the commencement of the latter growths the fruit blossoms spring out—so that a true crop need not be expected before the fourth year.

The root, like the top, should cover, and not mat over the whole ground, before the meadow will have reached its maturity, a process requiring from eight to ten years.

In the matter of gathering the crop, there has been much unnecessary confusion and doubt. The main difficulty in the gathering lies in the matted growth of the vine. The vine becomes so intertwined, that it seems impossible to construct any machine that will gather all the crop, without bruising the fruit or tearing the vine, so that hand picking being found to be the only mode of gathering the crop.

There have been some very ingenious imitations of the hand constructed; but unless the vine can be trained, or cultivated in some other manner than the mode nature points out, there seems but little chance of hand picking being superseded. If hand picking is systematically conducted, the work becomes much lightened.

The gathering season, coming toward and during the Indian summer, is the finest of all the year. Bright skies, pleasant breezes, the ground dry, too warm for in-door work, all the farm gathering over for the year, it comes the last, the easiest and the pleasantest harvest of them all.

After a hoar frost the fruit rapidly colors, flavors, and is matured. These white frosts form in the strata of air immediately above the earth. About day dawn it may be seen filling in small dust, for several feet above the earth's surface; it is arrested by the first rays of the sun. This frost does not penetrate into the pulp of the plant, it is in the air. It stops the sap in the plant, reddens the leaf, sends downward the flow of sap, and commences the operation of converting into woody fibre the cellular growth made during the past summer. The fruit does not attain its prime till some days after the frost has set these operations going. A freeze penetrates into the body of the berry, and in thawing out, leaves it soft, watery, and ready for decay.

Picking them should commence as near the first hoar frosts as you can get.

In a newly planted meadow, where the vines stand in rows, a picker can be put on each two or four rows, and the work is easily superintended. Where the vines have covered, each picker having a definite specified portion of ground to go over and clean up, the gathering of each being kept separate until measured, the individual responsibility of each becomes the safe guard against careless work. By giving each hand but a small lot of ground at a time—say three or four rods—and arranging the whole in line or some convenient manner, the meadow is left cleaned up behind the line, as it moves on. A good picker, last year (1867) in fair meadow, could gather five bushels a day, without any extra labor, and at fifty cents per bushel, the day was worth to him or her $2.50. Living near to the work is of great advantage to both picker and owner. Those living on the grounds have nothing to interrupt their work, and soon fall into a systematic manner of gathering. These will average near or quite fifty per cent more in quantity per day, (of course in money) than those living even a mile from the work.

This fact would seem to show that the best manner of gathering our crops, would be to bring pickers from a distance and in considerable numbers, from the cities, say.

The most profitable picking party is a family woman with four children, of from eight or nine to sixteen or seventeen years, two on each flank. Any family of this size, living on the grounds, could readily average $6 per day (1867). Their bedding and provision having been brought with them, their fuel found them, their expense of living is very light. Their picking lots being staked out for them, and but a few steps from their living booths or tents, nearly every moment of their time is at their disposal to convert into money.

About seventy-five good pickers are as many as one man can well superintend in the meadow—that is, to give each a fresh lot, see that each lot is cleaned before it is left, stake out the lots, keep order and attend to the thousand matters connected with a harvest. With this party, two acres a day should be cleaned, of meadow yielding one hundred and fifty bushels to the acre.

THE INCREASING USE OF MUTTON.

We find in a late number of the *New England Homestead* the following concerning the use of mutton now as compared with its use in former years:

In our boyhood mutton was an unpopular meat, and avoided by the city and country as much as the meat of the most offensive animal. To-day, in all the large cities of the country and among the people east of the Mississippi, the best of mutton and lamb commands the highest price of any meat. All nations, as they advance in civilization, abandon the grosser and semi-barbarous kinds of food, and substitute for it the luxuries of the garden and nutritious mutton for the grosser pork, which is far more expensive to produce. The consumption of mutton by a people has been said to be an index of their civilization and refinement.

There are some curious facts illustrative of the immensely increased demand for mutton. Within our recollection tens of thousands of sheep have been slaughtered for their hides and tallow, and their meat pressed for swine feed. To-day, take the year round, butchers complain that it takes more time to obtain a meagre supply of mutton and lamb than all other meats. At Brighton, on the day before Christmas, 1839, two men held all the sheep, (only 400 in all at Brighton) yet this monopoly did not rail the sluggish market one-half cent per pound. In 1859 there were in this market, the day before Christmas, 6400 sheep, all sold, while the average weekly supply in 1866 was over 800, and on some market days over 16,000, and not much heard of cheap mutton. Another fact is worthy of notice, that while common fine wooled sheep sold for $1.50 to $4.50, the large long wooled sheep sold for $11. This fact points the direction which our farmers should take in sheep husbandry in order to meet the wants and realize the greatest profits of to-day. The fleeces and the lambs of the long wooled Leicester sheep are larger than those of the fine wooled sheep, their mutton better, and all command higher prices. These sheep, first quality, sold in 1866 for $10 to $16.

JUDGING HORSES BY APPEARANCES.

I offer the following suggestions, the result of my close observation and long experience. If the eyes be light sorrel or chestnut, his feet, legs and face white—these are marks of kindness. If he is broad and full between the eyes, he may be depended on as a horse for being trained to anything; as respects such horses, the more kindly you treat them the better you will be treated in return. Nor will a horse of this description stand a whip if well fed. If you scare, but he will have too much go ahead in him to be safe with everybody. If you want a tool, but a horse of great bottom, get a deep bay with not a white hair about him. If his face is little dished so much the worse. Let no man ride such a horse that is not an expert rider; they are always tricky and unsafe. If you want one that will never give out, never buy a large over grown one. A black horse cannot stand the heat, nor a white one cold. If you want a gentle horse, get one with more or less white about the head, the more the better. Selections thus made are of great docility and gentleness.—*Ex.*

SALTING BUTTER.

The Irish Farmer's *Gazette*, Dublin, states that Dr. Cameron examined a sample of cask butter, and found it to contain eight per cent. of salt! That paper justly adds: "It is a penny wise and pound foolish consideration which induces so many farmers to incorporate excessive amounts of salt with their butter.—This practice increases the weight of butter, the grain is more than neutralized by the deterioration of the article which ensues." Where butter is designed for immediate consumption, it does not require more than a quarter of an ounce to the pound, but if intended for keeping or shipment, double this amount will be about right. The salt should be pure and of the best quality of rock. Its use is essential in consequence of the presence of casein or curd, which it is difficult to separate wholly from the butter, and whose tendency is to rancidity unless counteracted by salt or its equivalent.

THE LAST MILK FROM THE UDDER.

Dr. Anderson, in "Dickerson's Practical Agriculture," says he has found by practical analysis, in one instance, that the last cup of milk drawn from the cow's udder contained sixteen times as much cream as the first one. The separation of cream from milk takes place in part in the udder of the cow, particularly if the cow is suffered to stand at rest for some time previous to milking. If there are people who doubt that there is a difference in the richness of milk first drawn from cows and that last drawn, their doubts will be speedily removed by milking a half dozen cows and setting the first half drawn from each cow separate from the last half.

FEEDING COWS.

"Cosmo," in the *Saturday Evening Post*, ridicules the idea advanced by an agricultural journal, that feeding a cow a peck of Indian meal a day besides hay, during the winter, will produce a fine flow of rich milk. "Cosmo" is right in this. A cow so fed will fatten rapidly, but her flow of milk will decrease in an equal ratio.

RENOVATING THE FARM.

Joseph Harris, formerly editor of the *Genesee Farmer*, has been engaged, for some years, in the attempt to renovate a "run down farm" with the following results, as written to the *American Agriculturist*:—

I do not find a farm life entirely free from care and anxiety. Perhaps I exaggerate the disappointments and annoyances. But if so, it is not a common fault of agricultural editors. We hear more of the successes than of the failures, and yet the latter, properly considered, teach more than the former. A man who really loves farming will not be discouraged by hearing of the mistakes of others. He will try to avoid them. I have had my trials, but think I shall succeed in renovating my farm. Every year affords me more encouragement. If I mistake not, we have five acres that will turn out more and far better barley than I got from twenty acres the first year. And I have fourteen acres of clover that will afford more feed than could have been cut from half the farm. I have a very fair crop of wheat on land where the oats the first year only yielded eight bushels per acre, and those hardly fit to feed the geese. I have some very promising corn on the "Deacon's Duck Pond," and fair grass on part of the old stump lot, where nothing ever grew but rushes and wee

The Ploughman.

BOSTON: SATURDAY, FEB. 1, 1868.

ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
N. ENG'D AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the New England Agricultural Society, will be held in Boston, at the rooms of the Board of Trade,

On Tuesday next, Feb. 4, 1868,

At 10 o'clock, A. M.

DANIEL NEEDHAM, Secty.
GEO. B. LORING, Pres.
Boston, Feb. 1, 1868.

FARMERS, PLEASE READ THIS!

As we are determined to make the *Ploughman* the leading agricultural paper for New England, we desire to place it in the hands of every farmer; and to make it an inducement for all of our readers to assist us in the work, we offer the following

PREMIUMS.

To any one who will send us two new subscribers with five dollars, we will give any one of the following valuable books, which should be in the hands of every agriculturist.

Milch Cows and Dairy Farming, by Chas. L. Flint, Secretary Mass. State Board of Agriculture, the retail price of which is $1.50.

Flint's Treatise on Grasses and Forage Plants, $2.50.

Garden Vegetables of America, and How to Cultivate Them, by Fearing Burr, $2.50.

Cultivation of the Grape, by W. C. Strong, $2.50.

The above are all copiously illustrated and elegantly bound,

For seven subscribers and $17.50, sent by any one person, we will give the four books.

ANOTHER LIST.

To any one who will send us three new subscribers with $7.50, we will give any one of the following elegant volumes on Horticulture:

Flowers for the Parlor and Garden, elegantly illustrated, and beautifully printed on fine tinted paper, $3.00.

The Book of Roses, illustrated, containing full instructions how to cultivate—and list of all the principal varieties grown in this country, by Francis Parkman, $3.00.

Flowers for Parlor and Garden—A Treatise on the culture of Hardy Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, Annuals, Herbaceous and Bedding Plants, by Edward Sprague Rand, Jr., with numerous illustrations, $3.00.

Bulbs, A Treatise on Hardy and Tender Bulbs and Tubers, by Edward Sprague Rand, Jr. Illustrated, $3.00.

These volumes are all illustrated, printed and bound in the best manner, and both ornamental and useful. To a lady of taste, no present would be more acceptable. We will send the four to any one who will send ten subscribers, and $25.00.

ERRATUM.—By an error of the printer, the notice of the New England Agricultural Society, published last week, read *Thursday*, instead of *Tuesday*, as per copy furnished by the Secretary. But as the date, *4th of February*, was correctly printed, we trust no evil consequences will ensue. The Secretary, Col. Needham, has also taken pains to send a corrected notice to all the New England Agricultural newspapers, in season for this week's publication.

MEMBER OF THE N. E. AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY. The name of William R. Warner, Cambridgeport, Mass., is to be added to the published list of members of the New England Agricultural Society.

NEW ENGLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The fifth annual meeting of this young and vigorous Society takes place on TUESDAY NEXT, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at the rooms of the Board of Trade, corner of Bedford and Chauncy Streets in this city. The rapid growth and development of this organization, has surpassed the most sanguine expectations of its originators. Its annual fairs have gathered from all parts of New England the richest and the best of her productions. And the Diplomas, Medals and Awards of this Society have been more sought after and more highly prized than those of any similar organization ever established. The Society has now held annual Exhibitions in four of the New England States. Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont and Rhode Island, every one of which has been a masterly success. The Society has already paid in premiums about thirty-five thousand dollars and this it has done through the indefatigable perseverance of unpaid officers, with no State help, not even so much as a State charter, the officers thus far assuming individual liability for all expenses incurred in establishing and carrying on the mammoth exhibitions the New England Society has held. This large amount of money has been distributed in premiums and awards, and a stimulus has been given to the productive Agricultural industry of the country, greater than that of all the County and State Societies combined.

It is, however, pleasant to recognize the fact, that between this organization and the State and County Societies, there has never been so much as an inkling of clashing, but wherever the New England Society has located its Exhibitions, whether in Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire or Rhode Island, the State and local Societies have cheerfully co-operated in the production of the creditable results which have been secured.

We hope that there will be a full attendance at the annual meeting, and that the Society may continue its rapid and healthful growth, awakening inquiry, diffusing information and inspiring hope in the breasts of the sterling husbandmen of New England.

FINE SLEIGHING.

The snow has fallen during the past week in such an intermittent way that sleighing has followed as a matter of course. A good deal one day, and a little more on the next, is pretty sure to make such a smooth pavement as runners are addicted to run upon with ease. Out of Boston, on the broad roads leading to the popular hotels, it has been fast and lively for a few days past, nearly every hour being improved to the uttermost. Of course the landlords have been reaping their winter harvest. And back in the interior we receive accounts of many a gay party of people, old and young, that has been made up for an old fashioned day's sleighride and a good dinner before going home. Good sleighing helps to make the winter season lively, after all. It was so in everybody's youth, and it will continue to be so as long as there are people to be young. Take out the horses and strap on the bells.

RELEASE OF TRAIN.

The irrepressible George Francis failed to raise the breeze he counted on, when he left for Ireland and England. He succeeded in making a loud noise for a short time, but the prompt action of the government in his release and in disavowing his arrest, finished the business at once. Train went over, by his own announcement, to be arrested and bring on trouble between the two countries. He declared his purpose to raise a breeze, by precipitating a fierce and passionate discussion of the naturalization question and the Alabama claims, and then to ride into office on the wave of notoriety he should create. *What* office? asks the reader. He may not be disposed to believe it, but Train really strikes for the Presidency. Wouldn't there be a fine muddle all round, with him in the chair?

DEATH OF PETER FORCE. Gen. Peter Force died in Washington on Thursday, the 26d, at the age of 78. He was a native of New Jersey, but had been a resident of Washington since 1815. He was universally honored and venerated in that city, with the interests and honor of which, for more than half a century of his life, he was largely identified.

THE MANUFACTURERS' CONVENTION.

The Manufacturers of New England assembled in convention at Worcester last week, to consider the subject of the productive interests of this country as affected by the operation of the internal revenue laws, and to express the opinions of intelligent business men as to the duties of Congress in the present depression of business and the manufacturing interests, in the direction of economical administration of affairs and a general revision of the revenue laws. The assembly was as intelligent and respectable a body of men as could be collected anywhere in this country, and their deliberations were business like, to the point, and resulted in the adoption of resolutions embracing most reasonable propositions of financial administration and reform.

The convention was presided over by Hon. William Gray of this city, whose address was received with great approbation, and enunciated the true principles which should be applied at the present time. The first and starting point was to insist on the maintenance—first and always—of the public credit, the full performance of national obligations according to the general understanding of their true intent at the time they were created, without resorting to nicetes of technical interpretation to evade them. As necessary to this end, sure and ample provision is to be made to meet our obligations, but next, and here is the point where the people are most concerned, be urged that the great practical step for the relief of the country, was retrenchment, immediate and most extensive, and that in every department of the government. The derangement of the industry of the country demands this most imperatively, and without that he sees no hope of a diminution of the burdens of taxation.

The expenses of the government, in 1860, exclusive of the public debt were sixty millions of dollars; in 1867 two hundred millions, and in 1868, they are estimated at two hundred and forty millions. The convention and the people justly ask why the ordinary expenses should be now three or four times as larger than before the war. Allowing for the increased prices of living, and of everything purchased by the government, we ought not to find our public expenditures increased more than one hundred per cent, and that is about the sum which those most conversant with the subject recommend as the lowest amount which should be the limit to be raised by taxation. With that every one seems to think we can get along, and that amount can be raised without great inconvenience, provided the laws are properly revised.

Mr. Gray gives some figures taken from the books of a manufacturing corporation, we presume the one of which he is president, the Atlantic Mills, showing that for six years, from 1857 to 1862 inclusive, the taxes amounted to $70,524, or an average annual tax of $11,754. For the last three years the taxes on the business of the same corporation were $986,262, an average of $328,757 per year. No business can sustain such a weight of taxes and live and be prosperous.

We are glad that the great interests represented in this convention and the one lately held at Cleveland have resolved to devote themselves to the labor of impressing those matters upon Congress. The time must come when the considerations and principles set forth in their resolutions must be the basis of the financial salvation of the country, and it is the feeling of business men generally that that time is near at hand.

A MAMMOTH HOG!

Great Sensation among the Marketmen!!

Thomas J. Damon, Esq., of Wayland, Mass., one of our old subscribers, and who, by the way is acknowledged to be one of the best farmers in the country, informs us that on the 21st of January, he killed a hog of his which measures 8 feet from tip to tip, and weighs 830 pounds, dressed. When butchered they took from him 29 pounds of fat and trimmings, which added would make 859. He was a cross of the Chester White and Mackay breed, and at the exhibition of the Middlesex Agricultural Society at Framingham last autumn, was much admired by the visitors. He has been purchased by Mr. T. H. Brewer, Harvard Market, Brattle St., Cambridge, who cordially invites the public to examine him, and tell where they ever saw a hog his equal in size and weight.

A BARONET TRIED FOR BIGAMY. A telegraphic despatch from London gives the particulars of the trial, concluded on Monday, of Sir Culling Eardley for the crime of bigamy. The testimony given showed that the accused married Miss Emily Florence Magee in the city of New York in the year 1859, that he subsequently (in the year 1867), married Miss Elizabeth Allen in St. George's Church, Hanover square, London, and that the second marriage took place while the first wife was living. The Court was called upon to decide the legitimacy of the marriage in New York, and declared it a legal and valid contract. The case was finally given to the jury, who brought in a verdict of guilty. The Court passed sentence of imprisonment at hard labor for eighteen months.

FAMINE IN EUROPE. There is great distress among the poorer classes in Russia, owing to bad harvests, and the government has had to make liberal appropriations to supply the peasantry with subsistence. Of the sufferings of the Swedish Norlanders late descriptions have been given. In France, in several places, there is a great lack of breadstuffs, and according to accounts from Algeria (one of the French African colonies) a hundred thousand people have died within eight months from starvation. In eastern Prussia there has been much destitution, and although contributions to alleviate have been numerous, they have been quite insufficient.

RESIGNATION OF A HARVARD PROFESSOR. Prof. Joel Parker, of the Law School at Cambridge, has tendered the resignation of his professorship. Judge Parker has been connected with the Law School at Cambridge since 1847, and his eminence in his specialty is generally known and recognized throughout the community. He was formerly Chief Justice of the Supreme Bench of the State of New Hampshire, which position he resigned with a view to legal practice in this city. Soon afterwards he was invited to assume the duties of the law professorship, which he has honorably filled, to the present time. The reason given for the present resignation is advancing years.

NIAGARA FALLS. Some remarkable signs have lately been observed in the rapids above the Horse Shoe Fall at Niagara, which are thought to forebode an early downfall of the rocks forming that remarkable cataract. The limestone ridge over which the river now falls is supposed to be in course of being undermined by a subterranean stream, breaking through nearly as far back as half a mile, the consequences of which must be an immense breaking away of the face of the cat ract, changing its whole form and appearance—perhaps converting the perpendicular fall into a shooting rapid, down a steep decline.

— How many times has it been said by the newspapers that the present winter is the coldest in twenty-five or thirty years. It's no such thing.

— Minister Bancroft is negotiating a new commercial treaty for the United States with North Germany.

— A lad fourteen years of age has committed suicide in New York.

CONGRESS.

The bill to prohibit further contraction of the currency by the Secretary of the Treasury was finally agreed to by both Houses of Congress, the Senate receding from its amendment, and both Houses agreeing to the report of the conference committee, which added a proviso that nothing in the bill should prevent the cancellation of defaced and mutilated notes, new ones being substituted.

Two or three conference committees have acted and reported on the bill repealing the cotton tax, but the respective reports made last week were non concurred in, and there seemed to be an irreconcilable difference on the details of the bill. The measure to be of any great avail should have been passed long ago, as the planting season begins in January, and the question of tax or no tax will have a large influence in determining the action of southern planters as to the amount to be put in the ground.

Much debatable time of the Senate has been devoted to the subject of the admission of Mr. Thomas, of Maryland, to the seat to which he has been elected. Many of the members have spoken upon it. Mr. Thomas resigned and withdrew from the Senate when the southern secessionists left, and the charge of disloyalty is made against him. No result was reached last week on this question.

The amended reconstruction bill came up in the Senate last week, and able speeches were made by Mr. Doolittle, Mr. Trumbull, and Mr. Morton, and Mr. Nye.

In the House the deficiency bill and some of the general appropriation bills were acted on. A warm debate took place on Friday on a bill reported by the committee on appropriations, enacting that hereafter no money shall be paid from the Treasury on certain claims arising out of the rebellion, on account of the seizure of property, or payment of damages to appliances of transportation in the rebel States. Congress it was said has already refused to consider any such claims, but they are presented and pressed at the Treasury department, and hundreds of thousands of dollars were being daily paid out on such claims. The object of the bill is to establish the principle that they shall not be favored by any department of the government.

Monday, the debate on the reconstruction bill was continued in the Senate, and speeches were made by Mr. Wilson, Mr Johnson and others. In the House, the bill to prohibit claims for damages in the rebellious States being paid by the Treasury, was passed by a vote of 86 to 63. Mr. Banks reported a new draft of his bill relating to the arrest of naturalized citizens in foreign countries, with a report of the subject. A resolution was adopted authorizing the Committee on Reconstruction to inquire whether combinations have been made, or attempted to be made, to obstruct the due execution of the laws, with power to send for persons and papers, to examine witnesses under oath, and to report at any time.

BILLERICA.

Rev. E. Nason, late pastor of the First Orthodox Congregational Church, Exeter, N. H., gave the fifth lecture in the Lyceum Course, at Billerica, Mass., on Monday evening, January 27. Nothwithstanding the storm, a crowded audience greeted the speaker. His subject, "At the Front," was handled most glowingly. The lecture abounded in vigorous thought, and was a manly assertion, corroborated by facts, of the fore rank in which Massachusetts has always advanced on the highway of greatness and enterprise. It was the universal testimony of a highly appreciative audience, that a lecture so eminently calculated to inspire sentiments of gratitude and loyalty, is seldom listened to.

J. D. S.

LEGISLATIVE.

office of State Constable, was the principal business in the Senate on Wednesday and Thursday of last week. Mr. Alexander moved an amendment providing that all laws relating to the sale of spirituous and intoxicating liquors be repealed, which after debate was rejected by a vote of 32 to 3.

The State constabulary was ably defended by Mr. Pitman of New Bedford, who gave the details of the origin and history of the system. It was not proposed by the friends of prohibition, and that the good results of these laws were manifest in many instances in the detection and repression of crime, and that no good reasons were given why the force should be abolished.

Mr. Bowerman also spoke on the same side, arguing that the executive department of the government should be strengthened by a State police force. That under a license system, such a force was necessary to protect the rights and privileges of those holding licenses. The system was adopted as a substitute for the proposed plan of a metropolitan police, and had proved to be efficient and economical.

The friends of the bill under debate, relying on their strength in the Senate, did not debate the subject at length, giving as their principal reason for abolishing the system, that it was one of the main instruments of the prohibitory law, the right arm as it were, and should be cut off. The yeas and nays on its passage were as follows: Yeas—Messrs Allen, Avery, Brastow, Chaffee, Cheever, Clark, Crane, Crocker, Dame, Fay, Fuller, Gaston, Giles, Oliver, Partridge, Penniman, Schouler, Smith, Stevens, Sutton, and Wheeler.—21. *Nays*—Messrs Alexander, Bowerman, Brooks, Brown, Chace, Claflin, Gould, McPhail, Mudge, Needham, Pitman, Pond, Sawyer, Snow, Todd, Tweed, Weston and Wilcox—18.

A motion for reconsideration of this vote was made and further discussed on Friday, when the bill was still more earnestly and sharply debated. No vote was taken on that day on the reconsideration, and the Senate adjourned over to Monday, for the purpose of allowing time for some improvement to be made in the Senate chamber.

In the House last week some appropriation bills were passed, and several bills were passed relating to railroad corporations. No measures of general importance however were considered.

An order was introduced on Friday, for the purpose of reviving the system of furnishing newspapers to the members, which was rejected on the ground of economy. The Sergeant-at-arms was directed to report as to whether it was practicable to fit up any room in the State house as a reading room for members, to be provided with newspapers.

On Monday in the Senate the debate on the State Constabulary bill was resumed and a lengthy speech made by Mr. Schouler, in favor of the bill before the Senate. His remarks were listened to with much attention. Mr. Clark also spoke in its favor, and Mr. Pitman then spoke in reply to those gentlemen. No action on the bill was taken. A bill was introduced and referred, providing that the Governor shall have power at all times, in any emergency of which he shall be the judge, to assume command of the whole or any part of the municipal police force in any place, and to command their assistance in suppressing riots and preserving the peace. In the House petitions were presented and referred, several orders of reference were adopted, and appropriation bills were advanced one stage.

Tuesday, in the Senate, the debate continued on the State constabulary, without a vote. In the House an order was introduced to provide a reading room for members, at an expense of $200, for furniture and newspapers.

— Use Dr. Day's Sanquinalo or Blood Purifier

READ AND RUN.

— Seven hundred and fifty-two dwellings were erected in Boston last year.

— California promises thirty million busshels of wheat this year, against twenty millions last year. This will place her at the head of the wheat growing States of the Union.

— Wood for walls, instead of paper hangings, is the last and neatest invention.

— Society is unusually gay and brilliant at Washington, this winter, in spite of dullness everywhere else.

— The assessed value of the property of New York city for 1868 is nearly seventy-six millions of dollars more than for 1867.

— The London *Times* is plain enough to tell the British government that it should send a Peer to represent that country at Washington, instead of a person of no rank.

— Little Peru is still in the throes of revolution. Peruvian bark and bite both.

— Madeira begins to show signs of renewing her place among the wine growing countries.

— The Detroit churches own real estate valued at more than two millions of dollars.

— Commodore Nutt and Minnie Warren are to become man and wife. Oh, my!

— A man in New Haven last week dropped an envelope containing twenty thousand dollars, which was picked up and handed safely to him. He *thanked* the finder.

— A whole family were found nearly suffocated in the morning from coal gas from the furnace, in Wilmington, Del.

— Two warriors of the Mohican tribe were recently presented to General Grant at his reception, who made addresses.

— A newly born baby in Connecticut has the good or bad luck to have three noses. It now *knows* all about it.

— Booth, the actor, has been South.

— The New York city cars are infested with pickpockets, and the conductors do not venture to interfere with them.

— Forty thousand bottles of mineral water are drunk daily in New York, at the present season. People's *insides* get washed, then, if their outsides do not.

— A couple of marriages, supposed to be mock, came off in Harlem, which turned out to be real. The gentlemen demurred, but the ladies are going to law to have their rights.

— The Pope has bestowed on Napoleon the velvet hat and sword of honor which he was to give to the Prince best deserving the title of Defender of Rome.

— Congress will give its attention to retrenchment of expenditures and lightening taxation very shortly.

— Solon Robinson, we observe, has resigned his position as agricultural editor of the New York *Tribune*.

— A man in Providence, Mr. Joseph Gladding, has died at eighty-six years of age, having lived in the same house and occupied the same room for sixty years.

— Symptoms point to the settlement of the Alabama claims at some time not far distant.

— Gen. Sherman now has the identical silver watch that was carried by his ancestor, Roger Sherman, when he signed the Declaration. The presentation was recently made in Washington.

— Silver is a drug in Canada, and they are buying it up for export.

— The City Bank embezzlement case in New York is to be hushed up by a compromise.

— There has been an explosion of an arsenal in China, by which a thousand lives were destroyed.

— The London *Spectator* thinks Mr. Dickens's reading of pathetic passages is "excruciating."

— The Florida winter is like nothing but our Indian summer.

— A life insurance company is about to be started in New York, offering policies at where persons seeking insurance are addicted to the homœopathic system of medicine.

— The intermarriages in San Francisco are represented to be the most curious on the face of the earth. All nationalities are kneaded well together.

— A school teacher was put off a railway train in Wisconsin because he failed to pay ten cents extra exacted from passengers who do not buy their tickets at stations, and froze to death from exposure.

— The purpose of the "Blot Clubs" of New York is to make that city the cheapest, as it is now the dearest, city to live in on the continent.

— The Boston Postmaster labors for the convenience of the public, and has its gratitude and praise. Letters are delivered all over the city and in the suburbs with promptness and despatch.

— Harvard College is invited to try its skill at rowing with the Oxfordites of England.

— A new troop of Japanese has taken New York by storm.

— In Somerville, the pastime of incendiaries appears to be burning churches.

— Money is idle for investments in industrial enterprises, and therefore government securities are in all the greater demand.

— It is thought that Niagara Falls are rapidly undergoing a change, and that very shortly the face of the falls will be so much changed that they will be not much more than a shooting current.

— Train's arrest and release were quick'y done. He had but a small chance to spiurge.

— The State Census for 1865 has been prepared and issued from the Secretary of State's office.

— The actor Charles Kean has recently died in London, at the age of fifty-seven. He and his wife, formerly Ellen Tree, were in this country a little more than two years ago.

— Mr. Beecher having impulsively remarked, in speaking of children, that he "coveted his neighbors' babies," he has been overwhelmed with applications from those who would be rid of their own.

— An international exhibition of needlework would not be such a bad thing, and such an entertainment the Crown Princess of Prussia is at present engaged in getting up.

— Queen Victoria's "Journal in the Highlands" reveals the inner life of royalty when young and wholly happy.

— The Emperor Napoleon has forbidden the publication in France of Prince Napoleon's pamphlet on foreign relations.

— Two women were run down by the coasters on Boston Common, last week, and severely injured.

— A complete descriptive role of Massachusetts Volunteers in the late war is to be made out, which will prove to be of wide interest and value.

— The pauper question still agitates the town of Hopkinton profoundly.

— The condition of the Indian tribes within the State is to be looked into more carefully by the Legislature.

— 1534 patients were admitted into the Boston City Hospital, in the year 1867.

— The skaters have been having a fine time of late, and the ring of the steel sounds gaily.

— A company of means has been organized for the preservation of all kinds of wood. Some such invention as it has at its command would seem to be necessary, at the rate our valuable woods are being swept away.

— The universal complaint is about the oppressive burdens of taxation.

— In New York, the gas companies realize a profit on the article they manufacture, amounting to three hundred per cent.

— The Bankrupt Act of Congress is pretty well patronised, in these latter times.

THE MARKETS.

Ashes—The market is firm, with a moderate demand. We quote sales of Pots at 8½@8¾c, and Pearls at 11@11¼c ₱ lb.

Butter, Cheese and Eggs—Prime Butter is very scarce and firm. We quote lump at 35@40c; best tub 40@42c, 2d quality 30@35c ₱ lb. Eggs are lower. We quote fresh at 45c, and limed at 38@39c ₱ doz.

Coal—The market is quiet for all descriptions, with rather a downward tendency in retail prices. Foreign continues scarce and mostly nominal. Anthracite is in moderate demand for consumption, and without much variation in prices. We note sales in large and small lots, by retail, at $8 50@9 ₱ ton

Coffee—The market is quiet, but very firm for the better grades. In Java, sales small lots, from second hands, at 30½, gold; and Singapore do, at 31½, gold. In St. Domingo, small sales of Cape at 18½, gold, and of common, in bond, for export, at 9½, gold. In Rio, sales small lots for consumption at a range of 21@25c, currency.

Cotton—Market active. There has been a good demand for staple, both for export and consumption. Prices have advanced fully ½c since our last report, and the market closes strong at 17½@18½c for middling, uplands and Gulf.

Dry Goods—Bleached sheetings and shirtings have been in active demand, and nearly all the finer grades have advanced ½@1c. We quote Bates 4-4, 14½c; Hills and Androscoggin do, 11c; Langdon and Bartlett do, 14c; James do, 11c, Boott do, 12½c; Red Bank do, 11½c; Canoe 8-4, 34c. The print market is quiet, and jobbers are closing out their dark styles at about manufacturers' prices. A few of the light spring patterns have appeared; but printers are not offering these freely at quoted rates. Frock prints, in pink and purple, are scarce and ½c higher. We quote Cocheco La and Merrimac Ws, 13½; Pacifics, Spragues and Dunnells, 13½; American and Allens, 11½; Arnolds and Lowells, 10@10½. American delaines are firm, and selling in small lots at 20c for choice new styles.

Flour—Western superfine is quiet at $8 75@9 50; common extra, $9 75@10 50; standard do, $10 50@11; medium do, including good bakers brands do, $11@12; fancy brands do, $11 75@13 25; new Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Northern Illinois, $13 50@14 for good to choice brands; St. Louis medium and good, $12 50@13 75; choice and fancy brands do, $14@17 ₱ bbl. Fresh ground local brands of flour are selling at $11 50@16 ₱ bbl, for choice quality. Rye flour is coming forward in small lots, and extra rye wheat brands are selling at $7 75@8 25 ₱ bbl, gold, in bond for export, and white wheat do, at $13 50@14 50 currency, for consumption. Southern flour is in moderate demand and firm, with small sales of good and choice family brands of Richmond and Baltimore at $12 50@15 50 ₱ bbl. Corn Meal is in good demand, and selling at $6 50@6 75 ₱ bbl, for the shipping brands. Rye flour is in fair request and firm at $8@9 25 ₱ bbl, for common and extra grades. Buckwheat is firm and selling at $5 ₱ 100 lbs.

Grain—The Corn market is steady, with a fair demand. Sales of Southern yellow at $1 35@1 38; white do, $1 36@1 82; Western mixed, $1 31@1 36, as to grade; and Western yellow at $1 36@1 38 ₱ bushel. Oats are in fair demand, with sales at 87@90c for Southern and Canada, including common and good; and 90@92c for Western, the latter price for choice. In Rye, sales small lots at $1 75@1 80 ₱ bush. Barley is in moderate demand at $1 50@2 ₱ bushel for common Canada East and good Canada West. Shorts are in better supply and lower, with sales at $42@43 ₱ ton; Fine Feed, $45@46; and Middlings $47@50 ₱ ton.

Hides—Market firm, with small stocks of foreign, and a good demand for the light upper leather grades. Sales 2,000 Buenos Ayres Cow at 28c, currency; 1,300 Buenos Ayres seconds, at 16c, gold; 1,600 Rio Grande Cow, part at 26½c; 4,000 Montevideo, to arrive, 22@23 lbs average, at 19c, gold; 1,400 Cordova, 22 lbs average, at 17½c, gold; 1,430 Chila at 15½c, gold; 2,000 Western wet salted at 12@12½c ₱ lb. Calcutta Hides are more active with sales of 25 bales dead green at 13½c, gold, and 17c ₱ lb, currency; and 10 bales slaughter at 15c, gold.

Hops—Market quiet, with sales of lower grades, with a steady demand for brewers' consumption We note sales in good sized lots at a range of 48@65c ₱ lb, for domestic, and 40@55c for foreign.

Molasses—Market firm, but the demand is mostly confined to the inferior grades, with retailers waiting for the new crop. A cargo of new crop Cienfuegos has been received. Sales 150 hhds Centrifugal, in lots, at 35@36c; 1,000 hhds Sugar House at 33c, cash; 150 hhds Cuba ₱ gallon.

Oil—The market for Linseed continues active and speculators are buying ahead at a further advance in prices. Sales at $1 15 ₱ gal; and for forward delivery, some 60,000 gallons at the same figure, but $1 20 is now asked. Lard Oil is firm and in fair demand, with sales of Boston extra at $1 25@1 30; Western extra at $1 10@1 18; and No. 1 at 90@95c ₱ gallon. Red Oil is quiet at 60c for distilled, and saponified is scarce and firm at 70@75c ₱ gal. Fish Oils are firm and selling at $22@25 ₱ bbl, for Shore, Bank and Straits. Sperm Oil is steady, with further sales of Crude at $2@2 10 ₱ gal, and Refined at 2 20@2 25 for unbleached, and $2 30@2 35 for bleached. Whale is dull, with sales of Crude at 65@70c; Refined at 80@85c ₱ gallon.

Seeds—Grass Seed is in fair demand at $1 12½@1 15 for Clover, and $2 75@3 for Herds Grass.

Sugar—The market is steady with a fair demand, mostly for the refining grades. The trade are taking small lots only. Sales 1100 boxes Cuba, No. 8 to 10, for refining, at 11½@11¾c; 300 boxes damaged at 11@11½c; 2200 bags Pernambuco at 11½c; 500 baskets Java at 13½c; 800 boxes do. No. 13 to 20 at 13½@15½c, the latter price for very choice; 55 hhds good and refining Cuba at 11½c; and 75 hhds grocery at 12½c ₱ lb. Refined Sugar is scarce and sold ahead of production at full prices. We quote powdered, crushed and granulated, at 16½@16¾c ₱ lb.

Tallow—Sales of 100,000 lbs rendered, for export, at 11@11½c ₱ lb. Rough is selling at 7½@8c ₱ lb.

FINANCIAL. The *Post's* money article of a few days since says:

It is believed that nothing will occur at present materially to change the condition of monetary affairs, and that the call for money is likely to continue moderate—for although there is increased activity in the Boot and Shoe trade, as well as in Hides and Leather, &c., and an improved feeling in Dry Goods, there are still many branches of business which are not yielding large profits. General trade on the whole is dull. This may be partially explained by the fact that the agricultural districts, West and South, are not in a condition to absorb a very large amount of goods. The South has disposed of the greater portion of her cotton crop, and, from the comparatively low prices of the staple, she has realized much less for it than she did last year—and to this extent is her ability to purchase merchandise restricted. The West has still on hand a large portion of her Grain and Provision crops, which must be forwarded to market, before she will be in a condition to meet her liabilities and replenish her depleted stock of goods. So far as foreign trade is concerned, both imports and exports are rather light, and more evenly balanced, perhaps, than at any time during the last three years, thus necessitating very moderate shipments of coin to liquidate foreign trade balances.

FIRES. At Sedalia, Missouri, a fire occurred Monday morning, which destroyed the building occupied by Messrs Horschiun, dry good dealers; Mesbeager & Co., liquors; Miner and Sebosbie, stove and tin ware; Boar & Co., Wolf & Brother, and Levi Brothers, each dry goods houses. The three first named establishments lost pretty much everything. The others saved a portion of their stock. The loss is estimated at $72,000: insurance small.

At Sheetsville, New York, the extensive linen mills, owned by Goderban & Wirtz, were destroyed by fire Saturday. Loss $200,000.

The Second Baptist Church of Pawtucket R. I., was destroyed by fire about one o'clock last Saturday morning; loss $25,000; insured for $5000. The Pastor of this church is the Rev. Charles Spaulding.

THE LARGEST SHEEP. We saw at Hiscock & Darling's, 9 & 11, Quincy Market, last Wednesday, the largest sheep we remember ever to have heard of. The live weight was 458 lbs; dressed weight, 308 lbs. The animal was fed by John Colby, of Albion township, Vermont, and had received a first prize.

— There are over two hundred thousand dwellings in Massachusetts, which house a very industrious and energetic population.

FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.

LONDON, Jan. 22. The discussion of the *Alabama* claims has recently been revived in the English journals. Lord Hobart has written two able letters to the *Times*, in which he sustains the position taken by the American Government on the subject. The celebrated writer "Historicus" in a communication, and the London *Times* editorially, reply to Lord Hobart's arguments. The tone of these replies is moderate and conciliatory.

LONDON, Jan. 22. The report which has been extensively circulated, that the Russian Government was sending troops to the Southern frontier, seems to be untrue. That Government, in an official note, has denied the rumor.

LONDON, Jan. 23. At the Ministerial dinner given at Bristol, last evening, Lord Stanley, who was present, made a very significant speech. Referring to Ireland, he said that Ireland had never been in a more prosperous condition, nor had she ever been more disaffected. The latter he attributed mainly to the designs of American soldiers.

The tone of the French Press as well as that of Prussia is eminently peaceful.

BERLIN, Jan. 23. The Ambassadors of Austria and Italy to-day had an audience with his Majesty, the King of Prussia, and presented their credentials as Ministers of their respective countries to the Confederation of the North German States.

PARIS, Jan. 23. It is reported to-day, on good authority, that the Emperor has forbidden the publication of Prince Napoleon's pamphlet on the subject of the Foreign and Domestic Affairs of France.

The United States fleet, under the command of Admiral Farragut, will remain at Toulon during the rest of the winter.

MADRID, Jan. 23. The Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs has addressed a note to the diplomatic representative of Spain at Florence, in answer to the despatch from Prime Minister Menabrea. The Spanish Ambassador is instructed to inform the Italian Government that Spain is determined to maintain the integrity of the temporal power of the head of the church at Rome, but in no other respect will she interfere in the affairs of the Italian peninsula.

LONDON, Jan. 24. A dispatch from Madrid, dated to-day, says that news has been received there from the provinces of Arrogon and Catalonia, that a speedy rising was anticipated in favor of the eldest son of Don Juan. The widow of Don Carlos had sent forty million reals to aid the insurrection.

PARIS, Jan. 24. The semi-official La Patrie, in an editorial article observes that Prussia is the only power not now in harmony with all the rest of Europe. Efforts of this character to tranquillize the public mind and give assurance of prolonged peace are singularly antagonized by the fact that every power in Europe is actively engaged in arming itself as if for anticipated war.

PARIS, Jan. 25. The Imperial Government has issued an official note, addressed to the Prefects of the several Departments of France, announcing the new army law, and arguing that, instead of being a war measure, it is a pledge of continued peace.

COPENHAGEN, Jan. 26. The following progress has been made in the Rigsdad on the question of the ratific tion of the treaty for the sale of the Danish West India Islands to the United States. In the Folksthing, or Lower House, the special committee appointed to consider the provisions of the treaty and examine the details of the negotiations between the Danish and American Governments made a favorable report. This was on the 14th week in current session. On Saturday the door of the chamber was thrown open. After a speech from the President closing the debate, the vote was taken and the treaty of transfer was ratified without a dissenting voice. The treaty now goes to the Landsthing, or Upper House of the Rigsdad for the concurrent and final action of that body.

EDINBURG, Jan. 27. A very heavy gale passed over the southern counties of Scotland yesterday. Houses were unroofed, blown down, &c. [illegible] Reports the loss of several lives. The storm was very heavy in this city and the Glasglow. It is thought the shipping must have suffered terribly though no advices of disaster have yet come to hand.

OVERLAND COMMUNICATION AND TRAFFIC.

The express time between San Francisco and New York was reduced to fifteen days at the close of 1867, and by the close of this year it is expected the time will be further reduced. By the middle of 1870, if not sooner, we may look for the all-rail connection, and a schedule of about six days from ocean to ocean; and therefore we may look for a prodigious stream of travel and traffic over the Main Stem Line.

By reason of the unprecedented low rates of fare on the competing steamship lines, no less than 11,000 passengers have left New York for California, via the Isthmus, within three months. The internal and agricultural development of the Pacific coast is so rapid that the demand for labor is inappeasable. The dispatches announce that the Central Pacific Company are organizing a force of 10,000 workmen, with which to prosecute the grand enterprise during this year.

Persons desiring a steady and safe investment have now an opportunity of securing the First Mortgage Bonds upon this great road at less than their par value. See the advertisement of the Financial Agents, on another page.

THE ABYSSINIAN WAR. The latest despatches received from Annesly Bay and Senafe show that the British forces have as yet made no advance beyond the latter point. Intelligence of the condition of the British captives had been received at the camp in Senate. They were at Magdala alive and well, and were carefully guarded to prevent the possibility of escape. It was feared by many that they would be massacred as soon as King Theodore heard of the approach of the expeditionary force, but no threatening demonstration against their lives had been made, and their treatment as prisoners remained unchanged.

SOUTHERN CONVENTIONS. In most of the rebel States conventions are now in session, chosen under the reconstruction laws of Congress, to establish constitutions in conformity with the requirements of those laws. The conventions have finished their labors in one or two States, and before long they will be submitted to the people for their approval. After that they will come before Congress, where they will undergo further consideration, for approval or rejection. In some of the States members of Congress will be chosen, ready to be admitted, as soon as the constitutions shall be approved.

☞ Don't fail to attend the annual meeting of the New England Agricultural Society, to be held in Boston, next Tuesday. See notice in another column.

THE AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL ANNUAL, AND HORTICULTURAL ANNUAL, have been issued by Orange Judd & Co., 245 Broadway, New York. They are full of valuable information and hints for farmers and gardeners, and florists, and are very neatly and compactly printed. Price 50 cents in paper, 75 cents cloth.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY for February, 1868, contains Does it Pay to Smoke? by James Parton; George Silversmith's Explanation, Part II., by Charles Dickens; Characteristics of Genius, by F. H. Hedge; Orion; A week in Sybaris, by E. E. Hale; The Victim, by Alfred Tennyson; Beaumont and Fletcher, Massinger, and Ford, by Edwin P. Whipple; Flotsam and Jetsam, Part II.; Doctor Molke's Friends, Part II., by I. I. Hayes; The Romance of certain Old Clothes, by Henry James, Jr.; The Meeting, by John G. Whittier; Four Months on the Stage; The Destructive Democracy; The Encyclopedists, by John G. Bosengarten; Reviews and Literary Notices. Ticknor & Fields, publishers.

— A lad in New York has invented and applied a method of "blowing" church organs, which will do away with professional blowers.

— It cost the government a million and a quarter of dollars last year, to maintain the revenue cutter service.

— A colony of Germans has gone into South Carolina, which is teaching the native population actual wonders in the way of work.

Marine Items.

DISASTERS, &c.

Br ship M Mosher, from Liverpool for Boston, was abandoned at sea Jan 22. Steamship Belgian, Graham, at Portland from Liverpool, which took off her crew reports Jan 21, at 7.40 P M, lat 43 54, lon 66 W, saw rockets and blue lights to the North; altered course and steered in that direction; came up with ship M Mosher, of Windsor, Capt Anthony master, from Liverpool for Boston, in a sinking condition, with rudder gone; took off the captain, Halifax pilot and crew, consisting of 18 men. The ship was consigned to Page, Richardson & Co, of

MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN AND NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE------BOSTON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1868.

...ile from 99@11 ₱ cwt, dress
...mewhat larger than last week,
...xtra sheep. Prices unchanged
...tinues fair. Among the sales
...was noticed sold by H M Mix
...oe lot. We would not have it
...ll never had a better lot, but
...ck.
...eep at 5½@6 ₱ lb, average 100 lbs.
...sheep to J Darpy at 8@9 lb.
...Hollis at 8½@9 ₱ lb, average
...lb sheep at 7c ₱ lb, average
...at 5½@6 ₱ lb, average 80 lbs.
...ld 34 sheep at 5½@6 ₱ lb, and
...105 sheep at 9@10 ₱ lb.
...00; prime 17@18c; good 14@
...ll poor to medium 13@15c.
...hickens and chickens, live, at
...Our markets this week are
...Arrivals of dressed poultry
...he demand continues fair at
...s last week.

Cattle Market.

...active; trade slow at a little
...head; quotations 11@13c.
...rately active and steady; re-
...ations 9@12c.
...moderately active; receipts
...Sheep 4@7½c; Lambs
...t be lower with but little ac-
...head; quotations 7@7½c.

Cattle Market.

...s extremely dull and prices
...receipts 1700; sales 1100; quo-
...mon to extra.
...uest; receipts 12,000 head;
...ations 5½@6½c.
...live hogs and the market is
...9@9½c.

Cattle Market.

...1,400 head. We quote first
...at 9@10c; prime at 7½@8c,
...@ 6 gross.
...Receipts 150 head. There was
...emand for this description of
...f the milkmaid, and free sales
...or springers, and from $60 to
...$90 head. The market opened
...es to the close. There was a
...ers, but no disposition mani-
...er than to a limited extent.
...0 head. There was no falling
...There was less firmness in
...our quotations fully 20@50
...d Union Yards at $10@10 50
...d extra sold as high as $10 75

Cattle Market.

...Receipts yesterday; common
...@8½; light shipping steers,
...ce and nominal
...common lots easier; others
...@5 50@7.
...and advanced 10@13c; sales

Wool Market.

...r the week have been light,
...00 lbs at a range of 29@60c for
...the various grades of pulled.
...xtra Ohio fleece, 48c; 2000 lbs
...Ohio fleece, 46c; 2000 lbs
...Ohio fleece, 45c; 2000 lbs
...Ohio fleece, 44c; 2000 lbs
...Ohio fleece, 43c; 2000 lbs
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...Ohio fleece, 6c; 2000 lbs
...Ohio fleece, 5c; 2000 lbs
...Ohio fleece, 4c; 2000 lbs
...Ohio fleece, 3c; 2000 lbs
...Ohio fleece, 2c; 2000 lbs
...Ohio fleece, 1c; 2000 lbs
...Ohio fleece, 0c; 2000 lbs
...Ohio fleece, -1c; 2000 lbs
...Ohio fleece, -2c; 2000 lbs
...Ohio fleece, -3c; 2000 lbs
...Ohio fleece, -4c; 2000 lbs
...Ohio fleece, -5c; 2000 lbs
...Ohio fleece, -6c; 2000 lbs
...Ohio fleece, -7c; 2000 lbs
...Ohio fleece, -8c; 2000 lbs
...Ohio fleece,

The Poet's Corner.

PERFECT THROUGH SUFFERING.

BY CAROLINE ATHERTON MASON.

Press the grape, the sweet wine flows;
Break the ground, the harvest grows;
Crush the shell, the kernel shows.

As with nature, so with man;
Such God's universal plan
Ever since the race began.

Fallow souls no fruitage bear;
Hearts untouched by wholesome care
Never yield the vintage rare.

Vain God's constant dew and sun;
Still the gracious work undone—
Nay, in truth, not yet begun.

Still the soil no harvest yields;
So the Lord his ploughshare wields,
Drives it deep through all his fields.

Drives it deep and drives it sure;
Ah, my soul! canst thou endure?
Patience! He who wounds can *cure*.

Better his ploughshare than his sword;
Nathless, can I say, "Dear Lord,
Do according to thy word?"

Ay! the dreadful cure begin!
Drive the heavenly ploughshare in,
For my soul is rank with sin!

Drive it sure and drive it deep,
Though my shrinking heart bespeak
Mercy, for the flesh is weak.

Root up every baleful thing,
Every germ of error bring
Topmost, for its withering.

Thus prepared, the heavenly seed
Planted, shall take root indeed,
Yielding harvests at my need.

Harvests, too, whose bounteous store,
Even life forevermore,
Scattered, shall enrich thy poor.

—*N. Y. Independent.*

Ladies' Department.

HOW I TRIUMPHED.

My mother was very angry to hear I had broken off with George Lyttleton. I had several admirers in Barnford, but we elected him because he could offer me the best home—his father a thriving solicitor, having promised to take him into partnership on our marriage. We lived in a cottage in the outskirts of the town, and to give up the opportunity of exchanging this for one of the finest houses in Barnford seemed to my mother a madness.

"Your flirting and coquetting have driven him frantic," she said, the morning after the quarrel; "but I believe the game is in your own hands yet. He will come on again, and let this affair be a warning to you."

"It shall be a warning to me to have nothing more to do with him," I replied.

"I will have none of this romance," rejoined my mother. "I insist that you receive him when he comes as if nothing had happened, or, at least, meet him half way."

"What, take the sacrifice of my life, mother," I returned, goaded into revolt. "To George Lyttleton I can never be reconciled. He is not only tyrannical, but spiteful, and in marrying him I should marry misery."

Here we heard the well known knock at the door.

"Now, Alice, you have had your heroics, and you know what you have to do," said my mother, in her sternest tone.

She had hardly spoken when George came in. I never raised my eyes to him, but I know that he looked haggard, and he made no response to my mother's smiles.

"I suppose you know all about this affair, Mrs. Seymour?" he said, after an uncomfortable pause.

"What affair?" replied my mother. "I know Alice has been muttering about something, but I never pay attention to lovers' quarrels."

"Well, I wanted nothing unreasonable. She is engaged to me, and I thought she ought to dance with me and nobody else; but last night, at Mrs. Bulner's she danced with anybody *but* me. And I acknowledge I spoke strongly about it. But I am willing to overlook it now, and go on as before."

My mother laughed. "That is the way to settle differences," she said, "so I will leave you to kiss and be friends."

But I caught her arm. "Stay, mother," I said, resolutely. "I want you to hear me say that I shall not be friends with Mr. Lyttleton again—that I contemn and despise him, and never could have engaged myself to him."

My mother knew that these words were decisive, and her eye lighted on mine with a look that, though it did not shake my purpose, made my heart quail. At the same moment George started from his chair with a constrained laugh.

"I tell you what it is!" he cried, "I am no longer the best match in Barnford. The young Squire has come home, and—ha! ha! ha! don't mind my laughing, Mrs. Seymour; our Miss here has been casting eyes at him, and calling him handsome, and I do believe she is setting her cap to be mistress at the Hall."

It was true that I had conceived such a project, and the accusation brought a glow to my cheek, which did not escape my mother. Instantly her face cleared: she drew herself up and turned on George in her most dignified manner.

"After such language from you, I must side with my daughter, Mr. Lyttleton, and ask owledge that she has taken a right view of your conduct," she said. "Pray sir, leave my house, and never enter it again."

George was thunderstruck. He had never dreamt of being given up by the mother, and now asked pardon, and I believe would have gone on his knees, only I quitted the room. I went up stairs and waited till I should be joined by mother, for I felt sure that she would come to me on George's departure. But I was mistaken. He had hardly gone when she also left the house, and I remained in suspense.

But a load seemed to be taken from my heart. I was free, and my glass told me that I had power to enslave. There might be difficulties to overcome; but on meeting these I should have my mother's help, and I already counted on triumph.

I heard her return, and my heart beat quicker, as she came straight to my room.

"I have been to the Hall, Alice," she said.

"The Hall!" I echoed, with a conscious blush.

"Yes, I heard last night that Mrs. Rushworth wanted a companion and reader, and I thought that, as you are now at liberty, the post would suit you; so I went about it at once, knowing there would be a hundred applicants. I have got it for you, and you are to take up your abode there to-morrow."

I could not help looking at my mother as she spoke; our eyes met, but now I did not blush; for I saw in her hard glance a worldliness that made me tremble. I trembled more when my gaze turned into my own bosom, and I beheld the same worldliness there.

All that night this image was before me—in my thoughts, and in my snatches of sleep, rising like a phantom, presenting my past life as a blank, and my future as an impossture. I saw myself unloving and unloved, and I thought of a time when my youth would be gone, my beauty withered, and I, old and forlorn, should be in the world without a friend. More than this, I despised myself as much as I had despised George Lyttleton, and the tears streamed from my eyes as I felt what a mean thing I was. But where I had contemplated farther deception, I now saw a way open for amendment. The situation at the Hall would deliver me from the thraldom of my mother, and I decided to go there; but far from retaining my first design, I resolved studiously to avoid Mr. Rushworth, and try only to be serviceable to his mother.

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My eyes filled with tears, and I felt impelled to throw myself on her neck, and tell her my renouncement of the design and my purpose of amendment. But a glance at her face told me how fatal would be the confession—that, instead of approval, it would invoke derision, and entail on me new fetters. So I simply bade her adieu, and entered the house, where I intended to work out my regeneration.

It was a fine old mansion—one of the Elizabethan structures; and I found myself in a large hall, where suits of armor, and trophies of the chase, placed between family pictures, exhibited both the pursuits and descent of the owners. The housekeeper, a quaint dame to whom I had been consigned by my mother, here directed a servant to conduct me to the mistress of the mansion.

Mrs. Rushworth was an invalid. For years she had not left her own room, but she sat up, and, as her apartments opened into each other, was wheeled every day into her boudoir. She had been a beauty, and preserved the remains, with a manner haughty to scorn; and of this I felt the effect in the stare with which she received me.

I foresaw my post would be a trying one, but all I anticipated fell short of the reality; for Mrs. Rushworth's temper was implacable. She could not be pleased, because her pleasure was in finding fault; and having always worried her attendants till they became frenzied under the strain and flew in her face, she hated every one who approached her from the conviction that the feeling was mutual. The ban did not, indeed, extend to her son, for him she idolized. Alfred Rushworth was now twenty-five, and had just taken possession of his patrimony, after spending five years in travelling round the world. I had seen him as he was passing through the town and turned to look at me, and this fired my ambition. But, under his own roof, I found it easy to keep my resolution of avoiding him; for he only appeared in our part of the house at a certain hour, when he paid his daily visit to his mother, and then I took care to be absent.

Thus I got over the first week, trying all the while to conciliate Mrs. Rushworth, but with no other effect than to make her more exacting. One morning she desired me to go down to the library for a book.

"You will find it on my son's table, by the door," she added. "He said he would put it there for me before he went out. Now, don't be blundering with a servant, but go yourself—though, for that matter, you are as likely to blunder as anybody."

Thus graciously commissioned, I proceeded to the library, not without a tremor; for it was at this hour Mr. Rushworth instantly sat, making it a forbidden precinct to me, even in his absence. I did not wonder that it should be his favorite apartment when I entered. Lofty and spacious, with bay windows looking on the grounds, and admitting a flood of light, sumptuously furnished withal, and shelved round with volumes in every tongue, it afforded a retreat tempting alike to the scholar and the idler. Nor could I be at a loss to discover his table, even without his mother's directions; for it was marked by his open desk, and at the corner I found the book for which I had come. The same moment exposed to me a letter lying on the desk, and which seemed to turn me into stone. It was addressed to Mr. Rushworth, in the hand of George Lyttleton, and there could be no doubt that its object was to traduce me. I took it up; the seal was broken, so that I could draw out the enclosure and read it. I felt irresistibly tempted, and held the letter a moment; but then the feeling prevailed, and I laid it down. My eyes rose as I did so, and I beheld Mr. Rushworth.

"Mrs. Rushworth sent me for a book," I stammered, acquiring speech I know not how; "and I saw this letter and took it up, to be sure that I was not mistaken in the writing. I beg your pardon for this liberty."

Mr. Rushworth inclined his head.

"I feel that I haven't explained my conduct," I continued, "but—but the writer of the letter is my enemy, and I fear he can have written to you but for one object—to slander me."

"Pray, say no more," he replied, cavalierly. "You didn't read the letter, and I don't complain of a curiosity which the circumstances excuse."

I had learned in the temper of his mother, never resenting her contumely, however it pained, but my spirit fired at being treated with such indifference by a man. It brought back my old pride of beauty; I forgot my good resolutions, and all my difficulties, and thought only of the moment.

"I trust you will consider that the circumstances justify a greater curiosity, sir," I said; "at least, I must ask you when her that letter does speak of me, and, if it does; I beg you will allow me to read it."

He now looked me in the face.

"You ask too much," he replied, in a more serious tone.

"I am sorry you think so, sir; your words are a clear consent to remain in your house, if I am to stay under imputations which are concealed from me."

"I wish to spare you pain, and pain to myself. Is it not enough that I disbelieve your calumniator?"

"Let me read it, sir!" I pleaded, laying my hand on the letter.

Again he inclined his head.

I waited for no more, but ran through the letter before I breathed. Here it is:

"SIR,—I think it a duty to put you on your guard against Miss Seymour, who lately entered your establishment. She has jilted half the young men in Barnford, and her plotting mother has planted her at the Hall, with the design of entrapping you. The young lady fully enters into the scheme, and is determined you shall be her husband before the year is out. Take this warning from

"ONE WHO WISHES YOU WELL."

I felt the blood leave my cheek at the first words of the letter, but then it came back, for I exulted that, whatever my original design, I had arrived at the Hall with a pure and honorable purpose. Mr. Rushworth could not misinterpret my feelings as I looked up; the blush on my face was not that of shame, but of triumph.

"That letter is written by Mr. George Lyttleton," I said. "His slanders are so contemptible that they don't even make me indignant."

Yet, as the words fell from my lips, I remembered that I once entertained the motives he ascribed to me, and this whisper of my conscience set my brain in a whirl. I caught at a chair, and sank into it, barely in time to prevent my falling.

Mr. Rushworth was at my side in an instant; he exhorted me to be composed, to dismiss this slanderous letter from my mind. Self respect told me that I must leave his house; and I thought of the reception I would meet from my mother; the triumph I should afford to George Lyttleton; the tales that would be spread about Barnford. But it would be easier to bear all this than the scorn of Alfred Rushworth.

"I know not how to thank you for your sympathy, sir," I said, with tears. "But I feel that I must return home."

My resolution took him by surprise, and he had no time to frame a reply: for here a servant rushed in, and announced that his mother had been found insensible.

I flew up stairs, and in a moment was in Mrs. Rushworth's room, which I hardly left for a fortnight afterwards. During that time she hung between life and death, and more than once her son watched her with me, expecting each moment to be her last. But she rallied, and seemed to shake off with the fever her evil temper, so that she now appreciated my attentions, and always spoke to me kindly. As for her son, nothing could be more considerate than his demeanor, aiming as it did to set me at ease, without obtruding a painful recollection. He was too successful, for his presence not only to give me ease, but happiness. The moments flew when we were together, and I counted them in his absence. In short, I loved him. Nemesis had entered my bosom; where I once thought of being the victor, I was vanquished.

Often I recognized this retribution, but never mournfully—rather with satisfaction, indeed; for it gave me what I had lacked before—somebody to love; and though it was a love unknown, and which would never be requited, yet I felt the richer for it, and looked it in my heart, like a secret treasure. I must soon return home—for I only deferred my departure till Mrs. Rushworth should be better, and then this hidden passion, though it could not but be a sorrow, would also be a comfort, for I could hold by it and rest on it, when everything beside gave way.

I had strolled out in the sunset in the park, to dwell on these thoughts, and they so absorbed me that I did not notice a figure walking among the trees, and before I looked up, George Lyttleton stood in my path.

"Well, Alice, I think you have played this game out now," he said; "and I have come to give you another chance. I shall never marry any girl but you, and I am determined that you shall never marry any one but me; so let us try again!"

I made no reply, but sought to pass on.

"Come, you ain't going that way," he cried; "don't think it!"

I turned my back, and thought to retreat in the other direction, but he anticipated my intention by seizing me round the waist.

"You won't forgive me? you won't be friends?" he cried fiercely; "then say so, give me your answer.

I answered with a scream, and was struggling in his grasp, when a powerful arm struck him to the ground.

"Scoundrel! how dare you molest this lady?" exclaimed Alfred Rushworth. "Begone, or I will have you horsewhipped into Barnford."

George Lyttleton sneaked away without answering a word, and I stood as speechless.

I had no voice, because my feelings were what my voice could not divulge, nor even express—admiration, gratitude, and love, love that would brave anything but discovery. But, after a moment, I murmured my thanks, and accepted my deliverer's escort to the house, replying to his remarks on the way in tremulous monosyllables. I took leave of him in the hall, and ran to my own room.

It was a week after this occurrence that I announced my intended departure to Mrs. Rushworth. She was in stronger health than before her illness, and we had been out in the carriage, an exercise she had not attempted for years. But this did not reconcile her to my going away, and she clung to me so, that, when I thought how differently I should be treated by my mother, my resolution almost faltered. But I withstood her tenderness, though with a choking voice and bursting heart.

That evening, I was taking my usual stroll in the park, now keeping always within view of the house, when I caught sight of Mr. Rushworth. I had recurred to my old practice of avoiding him, so I turned into an alley of trees leading in another direction. But I had not gone far, when I heard a quick step behind me, and the next moment Alfred was at my side.

"I am glad to have met you, Miss Seymour," he said, in a voice I thought troubled. "I imagined you had given up your intention of leaving us; but my mother tells me you still adhere to it."

"I have no alternative," I replied almost inaudibly.

"Pardon me," he returned, laying his hand on mine: "there is one—if I could persuade you to consider it. You have become indespensable to my mother, and you are as the light of day to me. Remain here, then, to make us both happy—her with a daughter, and me with the being I admired at our first meeting, and now devotedly love."

I don't know how my feet bore me at that moment; for the ground seemed to rise and fall, the trees to whirl, and the sky to bow down. His hand had twined round mine, and thence set thrills to my heart, which bounded within me. But even then my mind was made up.

"This must not be!" I said. "I should be the worthiest creature I have been called if I consented."

"You refuse me, Alice! you, whom I so love, so adore! Ah! why did I tell you? Why did you force me to speak before I had a chance of success?"

I burst into tears. A word more, and I should have fallen on his neck; but I now felt my weakness, and waving my hand, which he had allowed to drop, I hurried to the house. Nor did I feel safe from myself there. I stayed only to write a note of farewell to Mrs. Rushworth, and then stole out unperceived, and made my way home.

I came before my mother like a spectre.

"What is the matter?" she cried, scanning my pale face and staring eyes. "In Heaven's name, speak out!"

"I have nothing to say, mother, except that I have come back," I replied. "But don't let this trouble you. I can go out again in the same capacity, or as a governess."

My mother burst into a frantic laugh.

"As a governess!" she cried, seizing me by the shoulders, and shaking me violently. "You shall go out a bride and before you are a month older too! I'll bring George Lyttleton here to-morrow, and take care how you behave to me. Now you can go to bed."

What a night of misery I passed—as if I had been a criminal, on the eve of execution! Rather would I die, indeed, than give my hand to George Lyttleton. Nevertheless, was my resolve—never would I wed any one but Alfred, and him I had refused. I remained in my room in the morning, fearing to meet my mother, and considering how I could escape her toils. She did not summon me down, and after a time the servant came and announced that my post was filled. Mrs. Rushworth's errand I knew too well. Hence my heart quailed when I heard a carriage stop at the door. There was a stir in the passage. I listened till my ears throbbed, and then all was quiet. I darted to the stairs, and met the servant ascending, but did not heed what she said. The parlor door stood open, showing me Mrs. Rushworth within, and I sprang forward, and sank in her feet. It was a mistake—I knew not how. I could never have engaged myself to him."

My mother knew that these words were decisive, and her eye lighted on mine with a look that, though it did not shake my purpose, made my heart quail. At the same moment George started from his chair with a constrained laugh.

"I tell you what it is!" he cried, "I am no longer the best match in Barnford. The young Squire has come home, and—ha! ha! ha! don't mind my laughing, Mrs. Seymour; our Miss here has been casting eyes at him, and calling him handsome, and I do believe she is setting her cap to be mistress at the Hall."

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Jan4 6t

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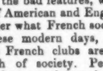

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Boston, Dec. 19, 1867. jan11-6t2

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